

**Pathways for All**  
**A review of education and training provision for  
young people aged 16-19 in Kent**  
**<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/kent-16-to-19-review>**

Cabinet July 2022

# National and local policy framework

- Since the demise of Learning and Skills Councils there is no body co-ordinating the 16-19 sector nationally. The LA has the duty to ensure sufficiency of high quality provision, but limited powers
- Skills and Post-16 Education Act – reform to support economic recovery and growth by investing in skills to improve progression to well-paid jobs in industries with skills gaps. National roll out of Technical Level (T-Levels) qualifications
- Levelling up white paper
- Kent and Medway Employment Task Force
- Kent and Medway Employment Plan
- Pathways for All- Kent's 16-19 Review

# Pathways For All

## A Review of the Kent 16-19 Sector

Aims to improve the options and life chances of young people in Kent by:

- Providing better education, skills and training opportunities for all Kent's young people
- Enabling KCC to develop a clear understanding of the issues and the barriers to participation and progression
- Allowing KCC to understand, support and provide direction to the post-16 sector in the county

# Pathways for All

## Evidence base

- Detailed analysis of local and national data on Key Stage 5 outcomes
- Fieldwork interviews with
  - 25% of the local 16-19 provider sector
  - 21 other stakeholders and key players
  - 30 focus groups with young people attending 22 providers
- Evidence submitted by stakeholders
- Online surveys of parents and young people
- A soft consultation on the emerging findings autumn 2021

## Key findings

### **Polarised provision + little collaboration + pupil inertia = missed opportunities**

- A fragmented post 16 sector creates significant gaps in provision (below Level 2, Apprenticeship shortages, small 6th forms limit choice and at risk through qualification reform)
- Uneven support for transition at 16+ and 18+
- Lack of aspiration, particularly disadvantaged students
- Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG) only partially effective, not explaining all options, resulting in student tendency not to make active choices post 16 (pupil inertia)
- Lack of mental health support
- Disadvantage limits opportunities and this is worsening

## From the horse's mouth...

The Kent provision mix is very complicated and this adds to parental confusion over choices and options post-16. After the 11+, there is a disengagement from decision making which affects what happens at 16+.

It was quite isolating knowing that every teacher expected you to go to sixth form; you weren't offered any support if you weren't expected to get the GCSE grades to progress there. I had to search for myself for a place for post-16 education that I could progress to. Student

# From the horse's mouth

There is a real and increasing shortage of provision for young people who do not fit neatly into the “school”, “college” or “apprenticeship” categories. These young people may have had difficulties at school, and are likely to struggle with literacy and numeracy: this of itself bars them from many routes. (Work-based provider)

Finances in general are an issue for young people. The loss of EMA and support for travel and other costs of access have had an impact. And the minimum wage for an apprentice is very low. If you are economically disadvantaged, your options will be more limited. (Work-based provider)

There is a strong preference among students not to travel any great distance for 16+ provision if they can avoid it. Students, unless they are highly motivated, start by considering the options locally. Any additional provision would need to be available locally to have any impact on young people's choices. (11 to 16 school)

# Eight Recommendations

- Improve outcomes through provider benchmarking programme and promoting the adoption of a life skills curriculum
- Raise young people's aspirations through promoting a model CEIAG curriculum and ensuring all young people are supported to consider a range of options
- Joint planning of comprehensive local offers enabling young people to exercise choice
- Enhance provision below Level 2 stabilising provision, reducing NEET and providing for progression



## Eight Recommendations (continued)

- Improve early support for students with mental health issues to promote well-being and remove a barrier to achievement and progression
- Improve access to post-16 provision by prioritising travel support to those who most need it
- Learn from lockdown to improve support for remote learning & retain more yp in some form of learning
- Establish a Strategic Board to take these recommendations forward and provide strategic oversight of provision

## Current position

- Disseminating the report and detailed findings
- New Pathways for All Board being recruited to lead on implementing the recommendations, national recruitment for the chair
- Integrating the new Board into existing governance structures
- Aligning resources to support the work of the Board
- Two pilots (Dover and Gravesham) bringing together post 16 providers to jointly plan a local offer in early stages